

Testimony for HB 5277

My name is David Fournier, and I live at New Horizons Village in Unionville. In 2009, I became disabled when my fiancée and I were hit in our car by a drunk driver. Before becoming disabled myself, I had always cared about people with disabilities. I was a volunteer with the Special Olympics, and in my security job we had bi-annual drills on how to rescue people with disabilities from a burning building. Since becoming disabled myself, I am even more aware of the struggles of people with disabilities in public places, even government buildings, and the level of societal disrespect is appalling to me.

Following the car accident, I have been in LOTS of hospitals and rehab facilities, and I have noticed a lot of dangerous things and inaccessible pieces of equipment. I have had experiences with x-rays when I was expected to reach the table by stepping on a stool. Since the accident my balance has not been good, and I am very afraid of falling. After all I have been through, I cannot afford to fall and hurt myself again.